

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to extend the incentives contained in the North-East Industrial Policy of 1997 and similar policies, for the States mentioned in part (a) above, to the KBK region; and

(c) if so, the probable time by when it would be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. But there is no proposal to extend such package of incentives to KBK region of Orissa on analogy with the North-East Industrial Policy and similar policies of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. The rationale for New Industrial Policy and other Concessions for North-East Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh announced on 24.12.1997, 23.12.2002, 14.06.2002 and on 07.01.2003 respectively were that these States are hilly, geographically isolated, remote to large markets and have poor infrastructure and poor resource base.

Non-Tariff barriers against Indian products in BIMSTEC

2282. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the industry and various organizations to provide details of non-tariff barriers faced by Indian products in BIMSTEC countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that by promoting rapid tariff liberalization in the BIMSTEC region India's exports to these countries will rise by 74 per cent in comparison to 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Commerce had requested for information from the industry by placing a Questionnaire on the Department's website with regard to identifying the non-tariff barriers that exist in the BIMSTEC region.

The information had been sought from the domestic industry with the purpose of understanding the real monetary and qualitative impact of standards, including sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other certification and procedural requirements for exports.

(c) A Study commissioned by the Department of Commerce has projected that India's exports to BIMSTEC countries may rise by as much as 74 per cent in comparison to 2003, by promoting rapid tariff liberalization in the BIMSTEC region.

Land customs authority for border trading

2283. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry announced during his visit to Petrapple recently that a Land Customs Port Authority of India would be set up at a cost of Rs. 800 crore to run and manage Border Trading Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) to (c) According to the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government has given in-principle approval to set up a Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) for overseeing construction, management & maintenance of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at identified entry points on the land borders of the country. Locations for 13 such ICPs have been identified to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 850 crores, in a phased manner.

Registration of exportable commodities and handicrafts

2284. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are accelerating the registration of commodities and handicrafts that are export-oriented;